

Remarks

In the office action mailed October 2, 2008, (i) the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-10, 14, 17-20, 24-28, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0195037 (Vuong), (ii) the Examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuong and U.S. Patent No. 6,935,958 (Nelson), (iii) the Examiner rejected claims 11-13 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuong, U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0048644 (Gerrard), and U.S. Patent No. 6,824,469 (Allibhoy), and (iv) the Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuong, Gerrard, Allibhoy, and U.S. Patent No. 5,885,158 (Toragno).

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/574,369 is a national phase application of International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/003184. During the international phase, the claims of International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/003184 were amended to reduce the claims from 34 claims to 22 claims. U.S. Patent Application No. 10/574,369 was filed with the same 22 claims. The filing receipt mailed on April 28, 2008 for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/574,369 states that the total claims is 22.

On October 29, 2008, the undersigned spoke with the Examiner regarding the office action mailed October 2, 2008. On November 25, 2008, the Examiner recorded a voice mail message for the undersigned in which, as far as I can tell, the Examiner stated the claims sent out in the office action were incorrect, he would like to redo the set of claims, and when the claims are done, a new rejection will be sent and the reply period will be reset. On February 27, 2009, in a telephone call between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner stated that no response is required for the office action mailed October 2, 2008 since a new action will be

mailed after examination of the pending set of claims. Applicant submits this response to avoid abandonment of this application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner examine the claims presently pending in this application (i.e., claims 1-22). Applicant urges the Examiner to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001 if the Examiner believes that this would expedite prosecution of this application.

Date: March 30, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

/David L. Ciesielski/

David L. Ciesielski

Reg. No. 57,432